



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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TWO NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO 2012 PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE BY COMMISSION FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

SAN DIEGO, CA (February 8, 2012) - The City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture (Commission) has appointed two new members to serve on the Public Art Committee which advises the Commission on issues related to art in the public realm and management of the artworks owned by the City of San Diego.

Newly appointed are **Allison Wiese** (92103), an assistant professor at University of San Diego who teaches sculpture and related topics and **Dr. Laurie Mitchell** (92103), an active arts supporter, advocate and volunteer.

Public Art Committee members include both members of the Commission and members of the community. They are experts in arts administration, art, design, planning or community engagement. They advise on policies and procedures and serve on ad hoc panels to select artists for public art commissions.

Larry Baza, newly appointed chair of the Public Art Committee noted, "These are two extraordinary additions to our team. Allison's broad expertise and insight as a professional artist will help ensure that our work remains relevant to artists both locally and nationally, while Laurie has a long history of supporting local contemporary art organizations and performing arts organizations. We are grateful to both women for their service and are sure they will bring passion and creativity to the work of the committee."

Allison Wiese is an interdisciplinary artist who makes sculptures, installations, sound works and architectural interventions. Wiese's work has been exhibited throughout the United States at such venues as Machine Project in Los Angeles, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego and Socrates Sculpture Park in New York. She is the recipient of a 2007 Louis Comfort Tiffany Award, and has received grants from Art Matters, Creative Capital and the Cultural Arts Council of Houston. She was recently one of ten San Diego artists in the California Biennial at the Orange County Museum of Art. Wiese received her MFA at University of California, San Diego.

Dr. Laurie Mitchell, appointed to serve on the Commission in 2011, has worked in San Diego since 1997 and has passionately supported the local arts community through her exemplary service. Mitchell is an accomplished pediatrician and very active in the community. As a dedicated advocate for local art programs, Mitchell has served on the Board of Directors of The New Children's Museum, Museum of Man and City Ballet of San Diego. Presently, she serves on the Collections Committee of Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego and is a committed member of The San Diego Women's Foundation.

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Wiese and Mitchell join fellow community members Kevin J. deFreitas, Vernon Franck, Lillian Perry, Constance Y. White and Roman de Salvo. Commissioners Joanne Hayakawa and Vicki Reed (Vice-Chair) also serve on the committee.

The Commission's Public Art Committee typically meets on the first Thursday of each month. Learn more about the Commission and its Public Art Committee at www.VibrantCultureVibrantCity.com

The mission of the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture is to vitalize the community by integrating arts and culture into community life, supporting the region's cultural assets, and showcasing San Diego as an international cultural destination.

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